

Emma B. Puterbaugh, Lanark, Ill.,  
E. W. Puterbaugh, Lanark Ill.,

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These are paid pledges; there are some five hundred dollars of unpaid ones that will be reported as they are paid from week to week until the canvass closes. There is some money needed at once to make necessary repairs to the church before it can be occupied. The friends will please take notice of this and send in some cash at once.

In the hurry at conference I did not get the P. O. addresses of all the contributors. If those that I have missed will drop me a card I will insert them on my record.

J. C. CASSEL,  
Sec M B. of the B. C.

## The Sunday School

### JOSEPH SOLD INTO EGYPT—Gen. 37:23-33

*Golden Text:* The patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him.—Acts 7:9.

*Lesson Thought.*—Evil intentions of one's enemies can never do lasting harm if God is with us.

*Introduction.*—Read verses 12-22 inclusive. Jacob dwelt near Hebron. The older sons were feeding his flocks in Shechem, about fifty miles north of Hebron. One day Jacob sent Joseph to see how his brothers were doing, but he found that they had gone to Dothan about ten miles distant. Faithful to his father's instruction he went to meet them, but as soon as they saw him coming they planned to get him out of the way.

23 And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stripped Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him;

The coat of many colors is supposed to have been a mark of his superiority and favoritism, a mark of the special love his father had for him. It is not difficult to see how this would arouse the envy of his brothers. (1) Evidently the first blunder was on the part of the father in showing a love for Joseph he did not have for the others. No doubt Joseph was more lovable, but if so it was a serious error on the part of Jacob in manifesting that special love. Favoritism in a family is always a serious mistake. It is often the case that the child that is least winning and beautiful is the one that most needs the special care and love of the parents. (2) Then too, did Joseph do right in rebuking his older brothers. Probably he had better kept his dreams to himself and not intimated that some day he would rule over them. What a pure minded boy should do in the presence of his older brothers when he knows them to be doing wrong is a question for discussion. (3) That coat of many colors was no doubt responsible for many of the troubles that came into Jacob's home. One sad day that coat was brought home with a sorrowful tale.

24 And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it.

Their first thought had been to murder him, but concluded later to throw him into the pit near by. The pit was a bottle shaped cistern with a small opening at the top into which a vessel could be lowered to draw water. It was very difficult to escape from it, and tho there was no water in the pit, Joseph would be left to perish from exposure and hunger. (1) We may imagine with what eagerness Joseph tried to get to his brothers and how glad he was when he saw them, and yet alas, what a fate awaited him. We go on gayly tripping thru the world not knowing what the next moment has in store for us. Happy they who are prepared for whatever may come to them as was Joseph. (2) What a good thing it is that we do not know the future. It would spoil many beautiful plans of providence. It is much better that we should not know what is before us but be prepared for whatever the future may have in store for us.

25 And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmaelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt.

Midianites and Ishmaelites are terms used interchangeably in this narrative. They were traders and were on their way to Egypt with products from Palestine, valued in Egypt chiefly for embalming purposes. (1) The utter heartlessness of his brothers is seen in the fact that they could sit down and seemingly enjoy a feast while their brother was suffering in the pit, utterly disregarding his pitiless cries. This shows to what terrible and inhuman cruelty envy will drive men. It freezes out of the human heart everything lovable. The envious man is never happy. Let him count his acres by the thousand so long as there is a little patch of ground on which his eyes feast belonging to his neighbor he is miserable. (2) But do not we sit down to our tables spread with all the comforts and luxuries of life, seemingly enjoying ourselves, eating our meals unmoved by the cries of want and sorrow which come very close to our doors and windows. (3) So we are highly favored in spiritual things; we enjoy Sunday School, church services, Bible reading, yet all about us are lost souls, persons in great trouble and sorrow, and their cry comes to us from the dark pit of sin and degradation and shame. Are we doing anything to lift them out? They are our brothers; how can we be indifferent toward them?

26 And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood?

27 Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content.

A happy thought seems to have struck Judah: They can make a little money selling their brother and at the same time save themselves from the crime of murder. Compared with killing their brother, selling him seemed to them a virtue. But if he was their brother, then why sell him? It looked to them like making a final disposition of the boy. The sequel of the story shows how sadly they were mistaken in this matter. Sin is an awful thing when it gets into one's life.

28 Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.

These men had been accustomed to buying slaves and selling them again in Egypt. Here Joseph's brothers saw an opportunity to make a little money and at the same time get rid of this dreamer. The amount in money was about \$12.50 a very small sum for which to sell a brother. But are not we guilty of such crimes? Many a man sells his manhood for less than that amount.

29 And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold, Joseph was not in the pit; and he rent his clothes.

30 And he returned unto his brethren, and said, The child is not; and I, whither shall I go?

Reuben had evidently intended to return to the pit and rescue his brother Joseph. He must not have been present when he was taken out and sold, and hence did not know what had become of him. In grief he tore his clothes. Reuben made the mistake when he compromised with his brothers and agreed to have him cast into the pit at all. It is always better to stand up boldly for the right regardless of consequences. When we compromise with evil we always get into trouble and we deserve to. The first temptation to sin must be stubbornly resisted.

31 And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood;

32 And they sent the coat of many colours, and they brought it to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it be thy son's coat or no.

33 And he knew it, and said, It is my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces.

The deed was now done, but the matter was not

disposed of. They must meet their father and what shall they do? They must invent some story for their father would demand of them what had become of Joseph. They have been guilty of envy, jealousy, covetousness, and murder, now they must add to this horrible catalog of sins that of lying in order to hide their crime. What a mean ugly thing sin is. It is cumulative. It never goes single handed. One lie always leads to another. Lies can not be left alone. One lie will need half a dozen others to conceal it. The one lesson for all is that when one allows sin to get into his life it is sure to breed trouble, pain and sorrow.

#### Terse Teachings

Parental favoritism is a trouble breeder.

Envy has in it an awful sting.

Envy lives next door to murder.

It never pays to compromise with evil.

Lies never work smoothly.

To cover one lie with another is poor business.

Envy and greed slay our brothers.

Adversity sometimes is necessary to the making of the finest life.

Often the best thing that ever happens to a boy is for him to be thrown out on his own resources.

#### To Make You Think

(1) Who was the oldest member in the family of Jacob? (2) What did Jacob probably mean by giving Joseph the coat of many colors? (3) Was Jacob partly to blame for the trouble that came into his home? (4) Did Joseph do right in rebuking his older brothers when he knew they were doing wrong? (5) What should be the attitude of a pure minded young man in the presence of his superiors who do wickedly? (6) What was Reuben's plan to rescue Joseph? (7) Did he do right in consenting to have Joseph thrown into the pit even tho he meant to rescue him? (8) In what way may it be said that we are slaying our brothers? (9) What shows the utter heartlessness of Joseph's brothers? (10) In what respects do people now act like they did?

## Among the Churches

### Warsaw, Ind.

The Warsaw church received great blessings from the General Conference, which I trust will continue to be manifest throughout the year.

With this month I begin my eighth year's work with the church at this place. The past seven have been full of valuable experiences for which I am grateful. There has been unbroken confidence between pastor and people and we begin our new year with larger plans and brighter hopes than ever before. We have had an average of forty accessions per year in spite of my absence most of the time in school work. This may rightly be taken as evidence that we have some faithful lay-workers here.

Warsaw is to have a union revival this coming November and we will co-operate heartily in it.

On Saturday nights I have been preaching at the Dutchtown church seven miles north east of Warsaw. The S. S. C. E. was recently reorganized there and will be a good help to the church. Bro. Thos. Plew preaches on Sunday evenings.

We have good Sunday Schools at both churches.  
C. F. YODER.

### Enon, Iowa

It was my privilege to meet with the Enon church for a ten days meeting immediately following conference. The meeting was a pleasant one. There were hindrances to be sure but not on the part of the church. I have never found a church more uniformly faithful and prosperous than this one. With a nice country well improved, with rural mail delivery, with telephones and pianos in almost every home the people have reason to be grateful. That they are grateful is shown by their generous support of the Lord's work.